

NON-LETHAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Captain Stephen A. Simpson, United States Marine Corps

Gunnery Sergeant Steven G. Carlson, United States Marine Corps

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U. S. Marine Corps Detachment
U. S. Army Military Police and Chemical Schools
Post Office Box 5402
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205-0402

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INTRODUCTION

With every major shift in technology or geopolitical environment there comes a need to develop change in the tactics, techniques and procedures used by the military forces of today. Introducing non-lethals has been met with it's share of resistance. Phrases like "operations other than war" (OOTW) and "support and stability operations" (SASO) have introduced themselves to each services vocabulary requiring of service members more than just two choices in regards to the use of force. Non-lethal initiatives provide a wide range of options to commanders, but do not replace traditional weapons. This point is made clear by the Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 3000.3 "Policy for Non-Lethal Weapons" which clearly states:

".. the availability of non-lethal weapons will not limit the commander's inherent authority and obligation to use all necessary means available and to take all appropriate action in self defense."

The concept of using non-lethals has been available for years, only the technology changes. To further exasperate resistance to the new technology on the battlefield, organizations within the DoD are developing different training plans, tactics, techniques and procedures for the tactical employment of non-lethals. The purpose of this paper is to outline the need for one DoD training strategy and propose a solution.

BACKGROUND

In 1995, Lieutenant General Anthony Zini, U. S. Marine Corps was tasked with protecting the final withdrawal of United Nations Forces from Somalia. To accomplish Operation United Shield, his organization explored the prospects of using non-lethals. Once the need was identified, a quick response to the task of fielding non-lethal capabilities became the issue. The military consulted civilian and federal law enforcement agencies who were considered the "subject matter experts" (SME) in the use of non-lethals against a forceful, aggressive, but not quite "deadly" adversary. A Non-Lethal Technology Mobile Training Team (MTT) comprised of highly trained and skilled senior staff noncommissioned officers was formed under the auspices of the G-7, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, California. Once deployed, integrated and trained, Marines used this non-lethal capability in and around Mogadishu. Although the use of non-lethals was minimal, it's impact was positive and determined the need to have this technology available to deploying forces.

Non-lethal was a priority initiative in the Commandant of the Marine Corps' 1996 planning guidance. The Commandant's War Fighting Lab (CWFL) and other Headquarters Marine Corps sponsored agencies continued to conduct research and experiments with contemporary and materializing technologies within the non-lethal arena. One of these initiatives was to provide a "non-lethal capability set" as organizational equipment to each Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The experiment was time consuming and tedious but resulted in a "suite" of gear procured and issued to the deploying Marine units. This equipment and philosophy initiated the requirement to train Marines in more than two options as related to the use of force. As an analogy, the "on-off" switch had to be replaced with a "rheostat". Training became a serious issue - not only for the service member responsible for using this technology, but for instructors ultimately responsible for teaching it.

Within a year of the Operation United Shield MTT, the non-lethal training capability that I MEF had experienced began to evaporate with the normal change of station orders and retirement of its members. I MEF G-7's Non-Lethal Action Officer harnessed the knowledge of these Marines and developed a training capability within the organization. Military Police Company, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, California organized and trained a non-lethal instructor cadre. Once institutionalized, they trained units within each MEU, but because a "suite" of non-lethal munitions did not exist to support such training, a significant amount of collective corporate knowledge diminished. In compliance with recommendations and support of the I MEF G-7 Non-Lethal Action Officer, the Military Police School, Marine Corps Detachment, Fort McClellan, Alabama initiated the development of the Non-lethal Individual Instructor Course (NIWIC).

DISCUSSION

In managing limited human resources, DoD can not justify having different training plans for different services. The NIWIC course is proposed as a DoD training standard.

There's a definite gap between "shoot" and "don't shoot". Non-lethal technology is the way to bridge that gap. Site visits, MTT's, and New Equipment Training Team's (NETT) to the operating theaters of Haiti, Bosnia, Hungary, Germany as well as visits to U. S. installations, determined the requirement for non-lethals and the training of tactics, techniques and procedures was evident.

At the 1997 Non-Lethal Defense Conference II, General John J. Sheehan, U. S. Marine Corps commented, "Whether it's US Forces in Somalia, IFOR troops in Bosnia, QRF in Panama or either Haiti or Guantanamo Bay Cuba, we have all faced operational situations where nonlethal weapons and capabilities were needed but unavailable." Non-lethal weapons are intended to have one, or both of the following characteristics: (1) They have relatively reversible effects on personnel or material; and (2) they affect objects differently within their area of influence. Non-lethals are developed to discourage, delay, or prevent hostile actions; limit escalation; take military action in situations where the use of lethal force is not the preferred; better protect our

forces; and temporarily disable equipment, facilities, and personnel. Because of this, substantial effort must be made to training forces in their use as they relate to tactical applications.

The task at hand is to "step outside the box," revisit the application of force in today's military operations and establish NIWIC as the DoD Training Program. In doing so, four substantial observations were made and classified as requirements:

- (1) The identification of a requirement for an instructor cadre organic to the serving unit, capable of instituting initial skill training and sustainment training.
- (2) A program that encompasses all levels of continuum of force as it relates to non-lethals. This program must be supported in theory as well as legally, whether in a courtroom or on CNN.
- (3) The program must consolidate "new equipment training" and tactics, techniques and procedures training.
- (4) Most importantly, non-lethal training standards must be DoD wide to better support a joint commander and joint environment. .

Based on these requirements, the initiative to develop a "train the trainer" course began. Along with numerous training organizations, operational units and research and development agencies, the concept for NIWIC was drafted. The focus is to certify instructors to conduct training with non-lethals as determined by the unit commander.

Psychomotor skills involve mental and physical skills, physical skills that require the learner to execute muscular actions. Most often these actions are in response to another person's opposing action. An individual's decision to use or not to use deadly force is no longer merely a tactical decision, it was determined that teaching psychomotor skills in judgmental scenarios would be a task. Due to the "CNN factor," the implications of a decision is capable of being broadcast throughout the world. Additionally, we asked the question "What should instructors know and be able to do?" A course designed to enhance an instructors knowledge, skills and abilities to present psychomotor skills can answer that question in five distinct statements.

- (1) Instructors are committed to students.
- (2) Instructors know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects.
- (3) Instructors are responsible for managing and monitoring learning.
- (4) Instructors think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- (5) Instructors are members of learning communities.

With these elements is a course which provides the participant a full spectrum view of "how and what we learn as instructors effects how and what we teach and train others". Based on this philosophy, individual training standards (ITS) were developed to meet the requirement of training service members with non-lethal weapons in support of OOTW and SASO. Forces assigned in theaters such as Bosnia or Haiti can be in a very difficult situation. Obviously having sufficient power to counter any armed adversary, how do they respond to the unarmed demonstrator? Built around the theory of force continuum, these standards satisfy the federal force continuum model as it relates to law enforcement and military operations other than war. These standards provide the answer to the previous question. Individual training standards of NIWIC are:

- NLWS.1.1 DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FORCE REQUIRED.
- NLWS.1.2 DETERMINE APPROPRIATE METHOD FOR DISSIPATING A CROWD / CIVIL DISTURBANCE
- NLWS.1.3 PROVIDE NON-LETHAL (NL) CAPABILITY TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO THE COMMANDER
- NLWS.2.1 UTILIZE VERBAL COMMUNICATION TO MANAGE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR
- NLWS.2.2 EMPLOY OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC)
- NLWS.2.3 UTILIZE OPEN HAND CONTROL TECHNIQUES
- NLWS.2.4 SUPERVISE RECOVERY TEAM EMPLOYMENT
- NLWS.2.5 EMPLOY IMPACT WEAPONS
- NLWS.2.6 EMPLOY HAND THROWN STINGER GRENADE
- NLWS.2.7 EMPLOY STINGER GRENADE VIA 12GA LAUNCHING CUP
- NLWS.2.8 EMPLOY HAND THROWN FLASH BANG
- NLWS.2.9 EMPLOY NON-LETHAL 12GA MUNITIONS
- NLWS.2.10 EMPLOY NON-LETHAL 37/40MM MUNITIONS

We often think "to be effective, it must be shot from a weapon". To disperse a crowd of Bosnians who are becoming disruptive on a cold, winter day, one needs only to find a water hose. Once wet, no one in their right mind would stand outside for very long.

Today's OOTW missions put service members in close proximity to agitators and aggressors. Whether at a check point in Port-a-Prince or, a food distribution point in Somalia, the space (stand off distance) between local nationals and service members does not always lend itself as being feasible to use conventional methods should the requirement of force be necessary.

A soldier directing a crowd at a food distribution point can unknowingly agitate the group by what is said and how it is said over a bullhorn. Knowing the importance of applying verbal and nonverbal communications skills is considered important. A Marine at a check point should be capable of defending himself against combative individuals without "breaking bones" or "stomping on heads." Simple "open hand control techniques" can make the difference in a televised incident. An airman with a riot control baton should be capable of more than just "hitting" people. Knowing proper striking techniques, striking points, defensive techniques and control techniques are essential. Riot control training has been available for years. Simple "romp 'n stomp" is very effective when dealing with a crowd, riot, or mob. Knowing the difference between a crowd, riot and mob is just as important. Knowing what motivates a mob, what initiates a riot and the possible resultant effects of a crowd provides service members with additional tools that prove helpful in dealing with these situations. The service member trained in crowd dynamics is a positive asset to the joint operation commander.

These skills don't present themselves by "exiting the barrel of a weapon" but are essential when dealing with aggressive individuals. They are "non-lethal" and if used correctly can be a positive asset to commanders in any environment. There is a distinct difference between "Get the f**k out of here!!" and "Would you mind leaving the area?" Training service members to do the later is a responsibility that is beneficial to a joint commander, and supports any operational situation found in an OOTW and SASO environment.

The NIWIC Program of Instruction (POI) provides this type of training. Consisting of approximately 120 hours of instruction and practical exercises, this program covers the entire spectrum of force continuum. The result is an instructor who is certified, capable, equipped and motivated to provide any operational commander with trained service members. Developed to support the individual training standards, the program provides a foundation allowing for additional skills to be built. The following is a brief summary of sub courses:

Force Continuum This sub course introduces the student to the federal force continuum model and the use of force. Upon completion, the student will be able to instruct others on force continuum and the escalation of force.

Crowd Dynamics/Crowd Control This sub course outlines the differences between crowds, mobs and riots and teaches the student basic crowd control techniques which will easily be applied to various situations. Upon completion, the student will be able to instruct others in regards to crowd dynamics and crowd control techniques. The student will be familiarized with classical tactics and techniques, but will also consider nontraditional and small unit application.

Communication Skills This sub course will teach the student how to instruct others on techniques to de-escalate situations by using verbal skills and crisis intervention techniques.

Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training This course will teach the student how to safely and thoroughly instruct others on the uses of oleoresin capsicum aerosol sprays and other riot control agents. The student will gain an appreciation for decontamination requirements, legal/policy considerations, and tactical considerations imposed by detainees / casualties.

Open Hand Control This sub course will teach the student to employ pressure point control techniques, unarmed self defense measures, weapon retention techniques and other submission / restraint / search techniques. Upon completion, the student will be certified to instruct the aforementioned subjects.

Impact Weapons This sub course will teach the student in the uses of various impact style weapons (batons) to include the rigid straight baton, collapsible straight batons, side handle batons and riot control batons. Upon completion, students will be certified to instruct the use of these impact weapons.

Introduction to Military Working Dogs This sub course will teach the student how to instruct the student on the role of military working dogs and the potential support available to forces requiring non-lethal force options.

Law of War / Rule of Engagement This sub course will teach the student how to instruct classic law of war and standard rules of engagement. Knowing that rules of engagement differ from individual operational theaters, instructors are encouraged to solicit support from assigned Judge Advocate General (JAG) officers. The content of this sub course not only subjects the student to rules of engagement and the law of war but how non-lethals should be viewed as they relate to rules of engagement / law of war.

Non-lethal Munitions & Employment This sub course will teach the student how to instruct the non-lethal munitions available. Students will participate in live fire exercises and upon completion of the course will be certified to instruct others on the employment of such munitions whether type classified or not..

Barriers / Physical Security Measures This sub course will teach the student how to instruct others on barriers and physical security measures available to tactical forces which complement the use of non-lethal force or mitigate the need for deadly force. Upon completion, the student will be able to instruct others on the employment of barriers/physical security expedients.

Tactics This sub course will teach the student how to instruct others on mounted / dismounted tactics and civil disturbance as they are related to the use of non-lethal munitions. Upon completion, the student will be able to instruct others on mounted / dismounted tactics.

Once instructed and trained on the sub courses, NIWIC students are evaluated in establishing "real world" scenarios, enhancing their skills of being capable of executing an entire, non-lethal training exercise.

The course was developed as a resident program at Fort McClellan, Alabama established at the Marine Corps Detachment. The Commandant, United States Army Military Police School (USAMPS) determined the POI to be relevant and committed to logistically supporting a Marine unique course at Fort McClellan. USAMPS did not identify a need to start Inter-Service Training Review Organization (ITRO) discussions until equipment and munitions are classified and become part of U. S. Army organizational equipment. While the parochial needs of one service may have been met by this decision, the collective needs of the DoD suffer. Upon receipt of USAMPS logistical and garrison support, the Course Descriptive Data (CDD) was finalized and submitted to the Training and Education Branch, Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Quantico, Virginia for approval.

SUMMARY

Non-lethal technology can reduce unnecessary casualties, especially civilian fatalities. Although it is not a replacement for lethal force, it is a necessity and should be part of the "tool kit" we provide deploying forces. With sending this "tool kit," there is the untiring responsibility to effectively and consistently train all service members equally. The training must be substantial, practical and standard throughout all branches of the Armed Forces and supporting agencies. The elements previously outlined must now be introduced as "objectives":

- (1) Develop an instructor cadre organic to the serving unit, capable of instituting initial skill training and sustainment training.
- (2) Ensure a program encompasses all levels of continuum of force as it relates to non-lethals. This program must be supported in theory as well as legally, whether in a courtroom or on CNN.
- (3) Ensure the program consolidates "new equipment" training and tactics, techniques and procedures training.
- (4) Mandate non-lethal training standards are DoD wide to better support a joint commander and joint environment. .

These objectives must be met with a standard course of instruction that formally identifies individuals as Non-lethal Instructors for use by all commanders. If not, a dire injustice is done not only to the deploying service member but to the joint environment as a whole. Non-lethal technology provides the opportunity to expand military responses to a variety of missions ranging from low intensity conflict to operations other than war to domestic terrorism.

Due to the wide variety of technologies and missions, the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate was developed as the focal point for all DoD non-lethal weapons activity. One advantage of this joint office is the effect it can have on preventing the duplication of efforts. With respect for this concept, the same should hold true in regards to training. A single, joint oriented, formal non-lethal instructors course supported by the Joint Non-lethal Weapons Directorate should be institutionalized to support all Services and the U. S. Special Operations Command.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Captain Stephen A. Simpson, USMC, COML: (205) 848-3332, Fax (205) 848-6310, DSN Prefix: 865-XXXX, E-Mail: simpsons@ala.usmc.mil.

Gunnery Sergeant Steven G. Carlson, USMC, COML: (205) 848-7626, Fax: (205) 848-6310, DSN Prefix: 865-XXXX, E-mail: carlsons@ala.usmc.mil.

The Marine Detachment, Fort McClellan has established a Non-Lethal Web Site which can be found at: www.ftmc-marine.army.mil

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